

## CLAIMS

1. A controllably dissolvable silica-xerogel prepared via sol-gel process.

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2. The controllably dissolvable silica-xerogel according to claim 1, wherein said process is such that gelation of the sol and evaporation of the solvent occur simultaneously, and where particles of small diameter are produced.

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3. The controllably dissolvable silica xerogel according to claim 2, wherein the gelation of the sol and evaporation of the solvent occur by a spray drying method or by a fiber spinning or drawing technique.

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4. A controllably dissolvable silica-xerogel particle of small diameter prepared via sol-gel process, where gelation of the sol and evaporation of the solvent occur simultaneously.

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5. The controllably dissolvable silica-xerogel particle according to claim 4, wherein said particle is prepared by a spray drying method or by a fiber spinning or drawing technique.

6. The controllably dissolvable silica-xerogel particle according to claim 5, wherein said particle comprises a sphere or a fiber.

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7. A delivery device comprising the controllably dissolvable silica-xerogel according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein said silica-xerogel contains a biologically active agent.

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8. A delivery device comprising the controllably dissolvable silica-xerogel particle according to any one of claims 4-6, wherein said particle contains a biologically active agent.

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9. The delivery device according to claim 7 or 8, wherein said biologically active agent is a medicine, a protein, a hormone, a living or dead cell, a bacteria, a virus or a part thereof.

10. The delivery device according to claim 9, wherein said biologically active agent is a medicine.

11. The delivery device according to claim 10, wherein said biologically active agent is toremifene or acid addition salt thereof.

5 12. The delivery device according to claim 11, wherein said biologically active agent is toremifene citrate.

10 13. The delivery device according to any one of claims 7-12, wherein said delivery device is implantable into a human or animal body.

15 14. The delivery device according to any one of claims 7-12, wherein said delivery device can be attached transmucosally or injected into a human or animal body.

20 15. A pharmaceutical preparation comprising a delivery device according to claim 7.

16. A pharmaceutical preparation comprising a delivery device according to claim 8.

25 17. An implantable medical device comprising a controllably dissolvable silica-xerogel particle of small diameter produced via a sol-gel process where the gelation of the sol and evaporation of the solvent occur simultaneously.

20 18. An implantable medical device according to claim 17, further comprising a biologically active agent.

30 19. A method of administering a biologically active agent into a human or animal body, wherein said method comprises implanting, injecting, or transmucosally attaching a delivery device, wherein said delivery device comprises a controllably dissolvable silica-xerogel, wherein said silica-xerogel, is produced by a sol-gel process, and wherein said silica-xerogel comprises a biologically active agent.

35 20. A method according to claim 19, wherein said silica-xerogel comprises a particle of small diameter prepared via sol-gel process where the gelation of the sol and evaporation of the solvent occur simultaneously.

21. A method of administering a biologically active agent into a human or animal body, wherein said method comprises implanting, injecting, or transmucosally attaching a delivery device, wherein said delivery device comprises a controllably dissolvable silica-xerogel, wherein  
5 said silica-xerogel, is prepared from tetraethoxysilane, and wherein said silica-xerogel comprises toremifene citrate.
22. A method according to claim 21, wherein said silica-xerogel comprises a particle of small diameter prepared via sol-gel process where  
10 the gelation of the sol and evaporation of the solvent occur simultaneously.